



# VA CONNECTICUT HEALTHCARE SYSTEM PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program

Are you interested in “researching” our residency program?



## “Objectives”

### What is the purpose of the residency program?

PGY1 residency programs build upon Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) education and outcomes to develop pharmacist practitioners with knowledge, skills, and abilities as defined in the educational competency areas, goals, and objectives. Residents who successfully complete PGY1 residency programs will be skilled in diverse patient care, practice management, leadership, and education, and be prepared to provide patient care, seek board certification in pharmacotherapy (i.e., BCPS), and pursue advanced education and training opportunities including postgraduate year two (PGY2) residencies.

## “Background”

### What do you need to know about the pharmacy department and pharmacy practice at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System?



Clinical pharmacy practitioners provide services to Primary Care, Anticoagulation, Acute Internal Medicine, Critical Care, Emergency Medicine, Hematology/Oncology, Geriatrics, Surgery, Psychiatry, Specialty Clinics (including Erythropoietin, GI and Liver clinics), Pain, Neurology, Infectious Disease, and Home Based Primary Care (HBPC). Within each of these specialty areas, pharmacists function independently with a scope of practice to provide patient-centered care. Pharmacists and technicians in the inpatient and outpatient pharmacies manage operations and drug distribution. Furthermore, research pharmacists oversee the investigational drug service.

The VA Connecticut Healthcare System acts as a site for pharmacy APPE rotations. Many of our preceptors hold adjunct faculty appointments at the schools. VA Connecticut also has a Center of Education (COE) in Interprofessional Primary Care, an innovative, multidisciplinary education program for training of medical residents and students, nurse practitioners, psychologists, and pharmacists.

## “Methods”

### How is the residency program structured? What is required of residents?

Rotations	
Required	Elective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Orientation</li> <li>Ambulatory Care I &amp; II*</li> <li>Anticoagulation</li> <li>Center of Education (COE) in Primary Care</li> <li>Internal Medicine I &amp; II</li> <li>Management</li> <li>Drug Information*</li> <li>Inpatient Staffing – Orientation &amp; Longitudinal*</li> <li>Medication Use Evaluation (MUE)*</li> <li>Residency Project*</li> <li>Professionalism*</li> <li>Teaching Certificate*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Living Center (CLC)</li> <li>Critical Care/ICU</li> <li>Emergency Medicine</li> <li>Hematology/Oncology</li> <li>Home Based Primary Care (HBPC)</li> <li>Infectious Disease/Antimicrobial Stewardship</li> <li>Inpatient Psychiatry</li> <li>Inpatient Surgery</li> <li>Neurology</li> <li>Outpatient Psychiatry</li> <li>Pain Management</li> <li>Specialty Clinics</li> </ul>



n = 8 Pharmacy Residents (6 PGY1, 1 Geriatric PGY2, and 1 Psychiatry PGY2)

- Rotations**
  - Required and longitudinal(\*) rotations in ambulatory care, acute care, and administrative practice areas
  - Wide variety of elective rotations with flexible scheduling
- Research**
  - Medication Use Evaluation poster at ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting
  - Longitudinal Residency Project platform Presentation at a regional conference and written as a formal manuscript
- Presenting**
  - Monthly presentations include case presentations, journal club presentations, professional development CE presentations, non-formulary/clinical pearl presentations
- Teaching**
  - Teaching Certificate Program
  - Adjunct faculty appointments
  - Precepting pharmacy students on APPEs
- Staffing**
  - Weekend requirements on a rotating basis
  - Evening requirements on a rotating basis
  - Holiday requirements on a rotating basis

## “Conclusions”

### How do you apply to our residency program?

- To apply you must:
- Be a citizen of the United States
  - Be a graduate of an ACPE-accredited Doctor of Pharmacy degree program at the time of appointment
  - Be a licensed pharmacist or eligible for licensure in any state
  - Adhere to the rules of the resident matching program
  - Be available for an interview

Applicants must submit their application materials using PhORCAS, the Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application Service. Mailed or emailed applications will NOT be accepted.

- Applications must include:
- Letter of intent
  - Curriculum vitae
  - Three recommendations using the standardized reference form in PhORCAS
  - Official transcript



Applications must be submitted by Jan. 2nd

## “Results”

### Where do residents typically practice upon graduating from our program?



Our residents are qualified to practice independently or pursue specialized training with the capability and flexibility to adapt to future changes in healthcare. Residents have gone into a number of venues, some including clinical positions in ambulatory care and hospital practice, academia, and management. Others have gone on to complete specialized residencies. Many of our residents have remained at VACT, now serving as preceptors to current and future residents!

## “References”

### Where should you go for more information about the residency program?



Follow us on Instagram @vactrxresidency!!

## General Information

### Facility Overview

The VA Connecticut Healthcare System serves more than 50,000 veterans who reside in Connecticut and Southern New England. VA Connecticut provides primary, secondary, and tertiary care in medicine, geriatrics, neurology, psychiatry, surgery, and other specialty areas. As part of the VA New England Healthcare System, VA Connecticut is comprised of an inpatient facility in West Haven and two ambulatory care centers in West Haven and Newington, as well as six primary care Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) located in outlying areas of the state in Danbury, New London, Stamford, Waterbury, Willimantic, and Winsted. The West Haven Campus has a 150-bed hospital, providing acute medical, surgical, and psychiatric care. The Newington Campus is a center for ambulatory care and diagnostic procedures. The CBOC's provide Primary Care to veterans in outlying parts of the state. VA Connecticut conducts research in psychiatry, oncology medicine, surgery, neurology, and related basic sciences.

Major affiliations include the Yale University School of Medicine, the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and School of Dentistry. VA Connecticut is also affiliated with the University of Connecticut (UConn), University of St. Joseph (USJ), Western New England University (WNEU), and the University of Rhode Island (URI) Schools of Pharmacy.



### Employee Benefits

The Residency program begins July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year and ends June 30<sup>th</sup> of the subsequent year. VACT Healthcare System will hire the resident as a 1-year term employee entitled to the following benefits:

- 4 hours of accrued annual leave (vacation) and sick leave per pay period (every two weeks)
- 11 paid holidays
- Health and Life Insurance (80% of premium paid by employer) - a full range of health plans are available

## Residents and RPD's



### PGY1 Pharmacy Residents

**Athena Gutierrez, PharmD**  
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**Maura Mullen, PharmD**  
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**Martin Patrick, PharmD**  
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**Besny Sebastian, PharmD**  
Besnyrose.Sebastian@va.gov

**Kory Stuessel, PharmD**  
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### PGY2 Pharmacy Residents

**Dominique Jeanty, PharmD**  
PGY2 Geriatric Pharmacy Resident  
Dominique.Jeanty2@va.gov

**Liliana Tenorio, PharmD**  
PGY2 Psychiatry Pharmacy Resident  
Liliana.Tenorio@va.gov

### Residency Program Directors

**Becky Curtin, PharmD, BCPS, DPLA**  
PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program Director  
Rebecca.Curtin@va.gov

**Kristy Falco, PharmD, BCGP**  
PGY2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency Program Director  
Kristy.Falco@va.gov

**Cristina Madden, PharmD, BCPP**  
PGY2 Psychiatry Pharmacy Residency Program Director  
Cristina.Madden@va.gov

Please feel free to contact our residency program directors or any of our residents using the contact information on our recruiting materials and website.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***How are the rotations scheduled for the PGY1 residents?***

The majority of the required rotations are scheduled during the first half of the year. Electives are selected on an individual basis. Timing and length of elective rotations are individualized for each resident to best meet their goals and interests.

### ***What types of projects are required for the resident?***

Each resident conducts a medication use evaluation which is presented as a poster at the ASHP Midyear Clinical Meeting. The resident is also responsible for completing a major residency project that is presented at a regional residency conference. Two ACPE-accredited continuing education presentations are also required. Other projects include journal clubs, a patient case presentation, a clinical pearl presentation, and two newsletters which are rotated on a monthly basis. Rotation specific projects may also be required.

### ***What teaching opportunities are available for the residents?***

The residents have opportunity to precept PharmD students on rotations as well as provide lectures at local universities if interested. Residents are also required to participate in a teaching certificate program.

### ***How are residents evaluated during the residency program?***

Each rotation is formally evaluated and documented in PharmAcademic™. Residents are also provided with formative verbal feedback throughout each of their rotations. An individual development plan is discussed between the resident and the program director on a quarterly basis. Adjustments are made to the training plan based on the resident's strengths, weaknesses, interests, and goals, and incorporates feedback from the resident and from preceptors.

### ***What are your staffing requirements?***

Currently, residents staff one weekend every 3-4 weeks in the inpatient pharmacy and one evening shift every 1-2 weeks. Each resident is also required to work 3-4 holidays. This is subject to change each year depending on the number of residents and the needs of the department.

